

International Freezer Challenge 2019: Optimizing your cold storage practices? – An initiative of EGNATON e.V



Global warming is a challenge for mankind on earth. One of the easiest ways you can reduce your environmental impact in the lab is to consider the energy consumption of devices. Ultra-low temperature freezers, even environmentally-friendly and energy-efficient ultra-low units, consume a large amount of energy as they maintain extremely low temperatures 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for years.

Since -80°C is needed for storage of many high-value samples, how can the usage of ULT freezers be optimized?

The International Institute for Sustainable Laboratories (I2SL) and My Green Lab have partnered together again to reward best practices in cold storage management and sustainability: The Freezer Challenge 2019.

The concept is supported by EGNATON, the European Society for sustainable lab technologies. It's easy to participate - ULT freezer users are invited to compete with colleagues from around the globe.

Labs and researchers can earn points by taking simple actions such as defrosting and cleaning out freezers, adjusting temperature set points, and sharing space with a colleague. A complete list of the actions is below. While labs are encouraged to take all of these actions, it is not necessary to do them all to compete in the Challenge.

- Good Management Practices
 - Defrosting freezers
 - Cleaning out freezers and refrigerators
 - Inventorying samples
 - Storing samples at high density
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- Temperature Tuning
 - Adjusting the set point of ultra-low temperature freezers
 - Storing samples at appropriate temperatures
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- Retirements & Upgrades
 - Retiring old refrigeration units

- Replacing older refrigeration units with energy-efficient units
- Cutting-Edge Practices
 - Sharing refrigeration space with a colleague
 - Barcoding samples
 - Trying/ adopting room-temperature sample storage

Awards will be given to those who have done the most to save energy and improve their sample storage. The deadline for submitting score sheets is May 1, 2019.

For more information on the 2019 Freezer Challenge and to register your lab go to:

<https://www.freezerchallenge.org/>

Further information available at:

<https://www.mygreenlab.org/>

<http://www.i2sl.org/>

<http://www.egnaton.com/en/Home.aspx>